



Montana Department of  
**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

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Steve Bullock, Governor

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL

POLICY OFFICE

Website: [www.deq.mt.gov](http://www.deq.mt.gov)

**RECEIVED**

NOV 07 2014

**PUBLIC NOTICE NO. MT-14-35**  
**November 10, 2014**

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The purpose of this notice is to state the Department's intention to issue a wastewater discharge permit to the facility listed in this notice. This permit is issued by the Department under the authority of 75-5-402, Montana Code Annotated (MCA); the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.30.1301 *et seq.*, Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES); and Sections 402 and 303 of the Federal Clean Water Act. The Water Protection Bureau has prepared a draft permit for the facility listed below. Copies of the draft permit, fact sheet, and environmental assessment are available upon request from the Water Protection Bureau or on the Department's website [www.deq.mt.gov](http://www.deq.mt.gov).

APPLICANT INFORMATION

APPLICANT: ExxonMobil Corporation

FACILITY NAME: ExxonMobil Billings Refinery

FACILITY LOCATION: 700 ExxonMobil Road, Yellowstone County

RECEIVING WATER: Yellowstone River

PERMIT NUMBER: MT0000477

The ExxonMobil Billings Refinery processes, treats, and transforms crude oil and other raw materials into refined hydrocarbon products, byproducts, and intermediates. The reported throughput in the February 21, 2013, permit application is 60,500 barrels of crude oil per operating day. Noncontact cooling water is taken from and returned to the Yellowstone River. Process wastewater is treated in a large wastewater lagoon system and discharged to the Yellowstone River. Noncontact cooling water and process wastewater discharged to the Yellowstone River must meet effluent limits in the discharge permit.

On June 24, 2013 the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued public notice MT-12-14 stating its intent to issue a wastewater discharge permit to the ExxonMobil Corporation (ExxonMobil) for the ExxonMobil Billings Refinery. The public comment period was held from June 24, 2013 through July 24, 2013. DEQ received significant comments on the draft Fact Sheet

(FS) and permit. Based on significant comments received during the 2013 comment period, DEQ revised the FS and permit and is reopening the public comment period.

On September 21, 2000, a U.S. District Judge issued an order stating that until all necessary total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act are established for a particular water quality limited segment, the State is not to issue any new permits or increase permitted discharges under the MPDES program. The order was issued in the lawsuit *Friends of the Wild Swan v. U.S. EPA, et al.*, CV 97-35-M-DWM, District of Montana, Missoula Division. This permit does not conflict with the judge's order because the permit is a renewal of an existing permit and the discharge of pollutants has not increased.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments are invited ANYTIME PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS December 10, 2014. Comments may be directed to the DEQ Permitting & Compliance Division, Water Protection Bureau, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620. All comments received or postmarked PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS December 10, 2014 will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permits. If you wish to comment electronically, you may e-mail Barb Sharpe at [bsharpe@mt.gov](mailto:bsharpe@mt.gov).

During the public comment period provided by the notice, the Department will accept requests for a public hearing. A request for a public hearing must be in writing and must state the nature of the issue proposed to be raised in the hearing (ARM 17.30.1373).

The Department will respond to all substantive comments and issue a final decision within sixty days of this notice or as soon as possible thereafter. Additional information may be obtained upon request by calling (406) 444-3080 or by writing to the aforementioned address. The complete administrative record, including permit application and other pertinent information, is maintained at the Water Protection Bureau office in Helena and is available for review during business hours.

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